

Purple Hearts Awarded for Battle of Najaf

Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns
39th BCT Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Members of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, and elements of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, were recently honored during a Purple Heart Ceremony at Camp Taji, Iraq. The Soldiers were presented Purple Heart awards by the 1st Cavalry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli, for wounds received in the battle of Najaf, with the Marine Corps last August.

The Battalion helped Marines from the 4th Infantry Division and Iraqi Security Forces take back control of the holy city from Muqtada Al Sadr's militia, who were using it as stronghold for anti-Iraq activity. The battle was seen as the first strategic victory for the Iraqi Government.

In a speech to the troops, Chiarelli said, "It is true this battalion went to Najaf and made Marine Corps history. In a way I think the Marine Corps thinks this battalion belongs to them. The work you did in Najaf was amazing and I know you are ready to go do it again."

The award comes on the eve of a new assault on the city of Fallujah, which is seen as a bastion for insurgents



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Scott Smith, 26, of the 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry Regiment is awarded the Purple Heart by Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, the 1st Cavalry Division Commander, for wounds received at the battle of Najaf.

in Iraq. For weeks, the military has launched precision air strikes in an attempt to destroy the Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and his

inner circle. The strikes were performed in hopes of avoiding an assault of the city, which lies 40 miles north-

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Mosque Raid Nets Weapons Cache in Western Baghdad

BAGHDAD -- Elements of an Iraqi National Guard Battalion conducted a cordon and search of a western Baghdad mosque at 2 p.m., capturing a large weapons cache and detaining three clerics and 23 suspected anti-Iraqi forces.

The unit conducted the operation after observing weapons being moved into the Um Tabul Mosque. They were supported by multinational forces, which provided the outer cordon.

The 90-minute operation uncovered 13 AK-47 assault rifles, one RPK machine gun,

1,000 AK-47 rounds, four rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 10 RPG rounds and eight RPG boosters.

"What insurgents must understand is illegal weapons will not be tolerated anywhere inside the city," said Lt. Col. James Hutton, the chief spokesman for the 1st Cavalry Division. "These weapons are the types often used to attack innocent Iraqi civilians."

During the cordon and search operation, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers came under sniper fire. Two were wounded and evacuated to a military medical treatment facility.



Photo courtesy 1st Cavalry Division

Coalition forces, along with Company C, 303rd Battalion of the Iraqi National Guard, conducted a cordon and search on the Um Tabul Mosque in Baghdad Nov. 11. The search uncovered several rocket-propelled grenade launchers, RPG rounds and AK-47 assault rifles.

19 1st Cav. Soldiers Honored for Injuries

Continued from Page 1

west of Baghdad.

Soldiers of the 2-7 Cav. and elements of 2-162 Inf. are participating with the Marines once again in the assault in Fallujah.

Chiarelli decorated 19 Soldiers in all. Some of the Soldiers, such as Sgt. Joseph Howell of Oregon, were second time recipients of the award since their arrival in Iraq.

The Purple Heart award is the oldest award given in the military and dates back to 1782 when General George Washington established it for gallant actions.

"Only three were given in the entire revolutionary war," Chiarelli said.

With its gold plating, the award is said to cost more to make than any other award in the military, including the Medal of Honor, the Army's highest medal of achievement.



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT Public Affairs

1st Cavalry Division's Commander Maj. Gen Peter Chiarelli shakes hands with a 39th Brigade Combat Team Soldier after awarding him the Purple Heart for wounds received in the Battle of Najaf.



SAFETY TIP

WHEN MOUNTING/DISMOUNTING EQUIPMENT YOU MUST:



- Maintain Three-Point Contact.
(Two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot)
- Do Not Wear Jewelry When Riding or Working on Vehicles.
(Rings can get caught on equipment and pull off a finger)
- Ensure You Remove All Tools and Debris.
- Ensure All Slippery Areas Are Cleaned.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Where is the nearest telephone?
ayn aqrab tilifoon?

Monday

High: 82
Low: 68



Tuesday

High: 81
Low: 60



Wednesday

High: 81
Low: 60



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Innocent Bird Killed in Dispute

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. (AP) -- A woman has been charged with animal cruelty for what police call a retaliatory killing of a parakeet. Witnesses told police that Andrea Grantham, of Martinsburg, brandished a knife during a property dispute with a neighbor. Grantham then allegedly killed a pet parakeet that the neighbor had given her. Police found a dead parakeet in Grantham's back yard, "and she still had feathers in her hair when she spoke to police," a patrolman said. Grantham, 39, was arrested Wednesday and released after posting \$500 bond.

Teachers Resume Sweet Rewards

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) -- Arkansas teachers have been told they can continue to reward students with candy, despite a state battle against childhood obesity in schools. The Pulaski County School District had told elementary school principals last month that teachers could no longer hand out candy or ice cream as rewards. But state Education Department director Ken James said no such directive has been approved by the state Board of Education. "We need to be conscious of what we are doing in terms of sugar content, but we have not dictated to schools that they cannot use those as rewards," James said.



Killeen Daily Herald

Jaynice Hallett animates her lifelong dream on a paper bag to be used for groceries at a local H-E-B during American Education Week, Nov. 14-20.

Killeen School Children Color Their Dreams

KILLEEN, Texas (*Killeen Daily Herald*) -- H-E-B shoppers could be taking home the dreams of local schoolchildren this weekend.

Pictures of race cars, schoolhouses and basketball glory are just some of the dreams depicted on more than 1,000 paper grocery bags which will be going home with customers beginning Sunday.

Killeen H-E-B stores on Trimmer and Gray streets have partnered with Bellaire and Sugar Loaf elementary schools for the project in honor of American Education Week. The theme for the week is, "Celebrating the American Dream".

"My hopes are that the community members who get them appreciate all the hard work students put in," said Traci Smith, assistant principal at both schools and founder of the project. "It means a lot to the children to have their work recognized."

"At this point we tell them they can achieve anything and they believe it," Smith said. "It's good to keep those dreams alive in the kids."

Anderson said her class had several students with dreams of gridiron fame and others who, with a patriotic theme, drew a dream of peace.

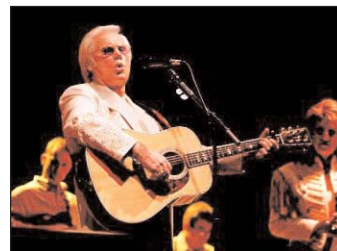
"To them, the sky's the limit," Anderson said.

'No Show Jones' Shows Up, Puts on Show at Expo

BELTON, Texas (*Temple Daily Telegram*) -- George Jones' tour manager knows how to get his fans' attention. He stepped to the microphone just prior to Jones' Thursday night concert at the Bell County Expo Center and said, "We have an important announcement concerning George Jones." After a hush fell over the crowd, he announced, "George is here."

A lot of fans affectionately call Jones "Possum" but a more derisive moniker, "No-Show" Jones, refers to a well-publicized propensity for missing concert dates. That was back in the bad old days, which lasted about half a century, when Jones' relationship with alcohol and later drugs were well publicized.

Jones' drinking days are behind him now, and so are his "no-show" concert dates.



Temple Daily Telegram

Country singer George 'No Show' Jones plays Thursday at the Bell County Expo Center.

He took the stage in fine form Thursday night, on time, and showed why his fans, for five decades, forgave him his many transgressions.

At the ripe old age of 73, the man can still wrap his distinctive voice around a lyric and squeeze it until it cries.

Jones drew about 3,000

people to the concert.

Before, after and in-between Jones' performing those songbook contributions, he hawked CDs, t-shirts shot glasses and the tour's corporate sponsor.

Nobody seemed to mind the commercial interruptions, not from a man who can glide from raucous honky tonk songs like "Why Baby Why?" (his first hit, in 1954) and "The Race is On" to the deeply introspective "Choices."

A man who can sing "Happy Birthday" to a couple of fans like he really means it then segue into the classic "He Stopped Loving Her Today" isn't going to get a lot of complaints from an audience paying \$18 to hear two hours of traditional, classic country music of his own making. Unless, of course, he doesn't show up.

Texas Rallies Kansas to Take Win

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) -- Stirring rallies are becoming a Texas specialty.

One week after scoring 49 unanswered points in the biggest comeback in school history, the No. 6 Longhorns got a touchdown run and a scoring pass from Vince Young in the final 4:11 to beat Kansas 27-23.

Young had 409 yards total for the Longhorns (9-1, 6-1 Big 12), who rallied for a 56-35 win over Oklahoma State the week before and still have hopes of playing in a BCS bowl.

"One of the great things about Vince Young is that he can beat you both ways," said Texas coach Mack Brown.

Young scrambled 22 yards on a fourth-and-18 play and then scored on an 18-yard run to pull Texas within 23-20 with 4:11 to go.

"We expected that they were going to play the pass, so I just used my God-given talent to use my legs," he said. "In my head I refused to let them make that tackle. In my head I had already planned to make (Kansas) miss."

Then, with 11 seconds to go, he connected with Tony Jeffery for the winning TD, denying Kansas what would have been its biggest win in almost a decade.

The Longhorns were penalized 10 times for 103 yards. Kansas drew three penalties for 23.

Kansas, a 22-point underdog, took a 23-13 lead with 7:41 left on a 1-yard touchdown pass from fourth-stringer Luke to Lyonel Anderson.

Young finished 22-of-40 for 289 yards and added 114 yards on the ground. Cedric Benson,



AP

Texas quarterback Vince Young (10) rolls away from Kansas linebacker Kevin Kane (45) during the second half at Kansas Memorial Stadium in Lawrence, Kan., Saturday. Texas beat Kansas, 27-23.

the Big 12's leading rusher, had 161 yards on 28 carries and set an NCAA record with his 36th game with a touchdown when he went in from 16 yards out in the second quarter.

Davis Placed on Injured List, 11th Panther Out for Year

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) -- The Carolina Panthers placed Stephen Davis on injured reserve on Saturday, their third running back to be lost for the season.

Davis has played in just two games this season after arthroscopic surgery Sept. 17 to clean out torn cartilage from his knee. He's tried to get back on the field several times since, but his knee would swell after every practice.

He now joins backup running back DeShaun Foster (broken collarbone) and third-stringer Rod Smart (knee) on the injured list. In all, Carolina (1-7) has 11 players out for the year.

But they're hardest hit in the backfield, where rookie Joey Harris started last week

after beginning the season on the practice squad. But he pulled his hamstring on Friday and is questionable for Sunday's game against San Francisco.

Carolina signed former 49ers running back Jamal Robertson on Saturday.

Davis, meanwhile, goes from the best season of his career to the worst.

He ran for a career-high 1,444 yards last season while leading the Panthers into the Super Bowl. But this year he has just 24 carries for 92 yards this season for the Panthers.

He played in the season-opener against Green Bay, had surgery four days later, and returned to play against Philadelphia. He has practiced sporadically since.



AP

Carolina Panthers running back Stephen Davis led a second-half charge with 75 yards rushing on eight carries during a game against the Indianapolis Colts last season. Davis became Carolina's 11th player put on injured list this season.

In Brief

Rapper Collapses, Dies in Studio

NEW YORK (AP) -- The rap artist O.D.B., whose utterly



unique rhymes, wild lifestyle and incessant legal troubles made him one of

the most vivid characters in hip-hop, collapsed and died inside a recording studio Saturday. O.D.B. had complained of chest pains before collapsing at the Manhattan studio, and was dead by the time paramedics arrived. The cause of death was not immediately clear. He would have turned 36 on Monday.

TV to Air Ads for Amendments

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) -- Californians will soon see advertisements urging them to help give Gov.

Arnold Schwarzenegger and other foreign-born citizens the chance to run for president. The cable television ads are from a Silicon Valley-based group that wants to amend the U.S. Constitution, which limits the presidency to people born in the United States.

Schwarzenegger was born in Austria but became a U.S. citizen in 1983. "You cannot choose the land of your birth. You can choose the land you love," Lissa Morgenthau-Jones says in the ads. Schwarzenegger, 57, has said he would consider running for president if the Constitution allowed but hasn't pushed for a constitutional change.